

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 855

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Al Green, Third Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Al Green, who is being honored at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service he has provided to the people of Memphis and Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, the Third Annual Living Legend Awards ceremony, which honors Harriet Tubman and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on March 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Al Green was the first great soul singer of the 1970s and arguably the last great Southern soul singer; expertly incorporating elements of gospel music into his singular performing style, he became the most popular and influential soul artist of his era; and

WHEREAS, between 1971 and 1974, Al Green released eight singles that earned gold certification, including "Let's Stay Together," which reached number one on both *Billboard's* Hot 100 and R&B charts; and

WHEREAS, at the height of his success, he became an ordained minister and established the Full Gospel Tabernacle in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, after suffering an accident onstage, Al Green rededicated himself to his Christian faith; he retired from secular music and refocused on preaching the Gospel and singing spiritual music; and

WHEREAS, from 1980 to 1989 he recorded six gospel albums and won eight Grammy Awards in the Best Soul Gospel Performance category; and

WHEREAS, Al Green has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, and the Songwriters Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, a Kennedy Center Honors recipient, he has received eleven Grammy Awards, including the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, the BMI Icon Award, and the BET Lifetime Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, Al Green was included on *Rolling Stone's* lists of the "100 Greatest Artists of All Time" and the "100 Greatest Singers of All Time"; and

WHEREAS, Al Green's recordings have retained their power and influence over the years and remain the standard in soul music to which all other singers still aspire; and

WHEREAS, Al Green is an exemplary individual; his commitment to excellence and community service is representative of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Al Green upon his recognition at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud his outstanding community leadership, and extend our best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.